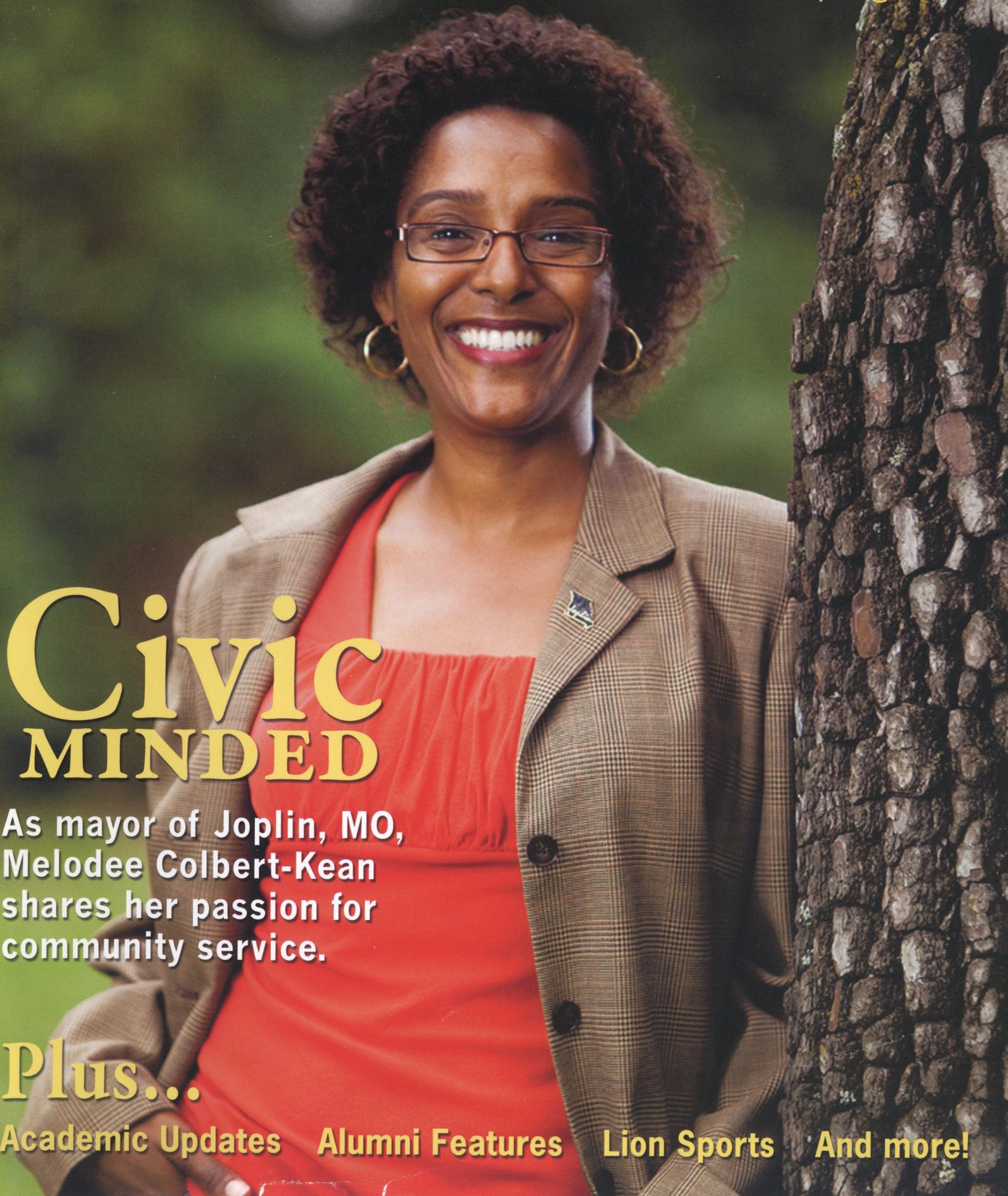


CROSSROADS

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2013



CIVIC MINDED

As mayor of Joplin, MO,
Melodee Colbert-Kean
shares her passion for
community service.

Plus...

Academic Updates Alumni Features Lion Sports And more!

crossroads

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spring 2013

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Melodee Colbert-Kean, '99, has been a member of the Joplin, Missouri, City Council since 2006 and just completed her first year as the city's mayor.

Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13; illustration by Debrah Trout, '13

As we have been celebrating our 75th Anniversary this past year, it has been a good time to reflect on the beginnings of Missouri Southern State University. Missouri Southern was begun by the community to enable students to receive a college education without leaving the area. That has not changed. The university still exists to help students achieve their dreams.



In keeping with that focus, we continue to strive to make education affordable and accessible, and we are proud of a number of efforts to accomplish that.

Last summer, we introduced our Lion Pride Tuition program to help with affordability. This program offers in-state tuition to students in 122 counties of Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, as well as parts of Illinois. We are part of a region and serving students beyond the borders of Joplin is important. This program helps make a college education affordable for everyone in the four-state area and beyond.

We also are developing additional offerings for students to expand access. Southern began as a junior college and later grew to a four-year college, but those who wished to complete graduate degrees still had to leave Joplin. Over the years, we have developed partnerships to offer seven Master's degrees in areas such as teaching, business administration and nursing. We are seeking to expand those offerings so students studying in other areas can stay in Joplin to complete graduate degrees. Be on the lookout for more Master's programs in the near future.

So, just as Missouri Southern began, we will continue. We will continue to offer an excellent education so students can thrive in their chosen fields.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce W. Speck".

Bruce W. Speck, Ph.D., MSSU President

Special
Collections
MSSU

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have spent the year celebrating 75 years of Lion Pride, both on campus and throughout our community. Through this celebration, we have been renewed with many important facts about Missouri Southern's legacy.

For example, did you know: Joplin Junior College's colors, selected by Joan Epperson and Mary Laird, combined the Joplin green and Neosho gold? The War Years Alumni refer to alumni during World War II and the 1946 *Crossroads* was dedicated to the 24 JJC students who gave their lives in WWII? In 1963, the student count, full- and part-time, passed 1,000 for the first time?

These are just some of the facts we cover in the First Year Experience program with freshmen during a video presentation and tour of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. These facts are also highlighted in the historic book being produced and on sale now.

As philosopher and poet George Santayana said, "We must welcome the future, remembering that soon it will be the past; and we must respect the past, remembering that it was once all that was humanly possible."

Be sure to come visit us. We look forward to seeing you!

In Lion Pride,



Lee Elliff Pound, '86,
Alumni Director



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JoAnn Graffam, '87; Jean Hobbs;
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Stebbins, '82; Amanda Pachlhofer, '12
/ CONTRIBUTOR

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

crossroads magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

crossroads is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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New lion, plaza thanks to generous gift

It is such a pleasure to have this space as an additional way to say thank you to our donors who help make things happen at Missouri Southern State University. Today, I



have the honor of thanking Bill, '85, and Tracy, '79, Gipson and the MSSU Student Senate.

Thanks to generous gifts from Bill and Tracy and the Student Senate, the land-

scape of the area we affectionately refer to as the Oval will soon be enhanced by a new landmark.

This fall, a new, larger-than-life lion statue will grace the grounds in front of the Leon C. Billingsly Student Center on the west side of the campus Oval.

The project is a step forward in the University's Master Facilities Plan. The plan outlines a variety of potential projects over the next 25 years, designed to make the campus inviting and to improve the quality of academics and student life.

The bronze statue will stand 10 feet in height and will be nearly 12 feet in length. The structure will be surrounded by a new 5,400-square-foot plaza, which will feature a winding, graduated wall as well as ground pavers. The area will be accentuated with new seating and lighting and will be a location designed to attract students and visitors.

It's a special moment to be able to accomplish another of our Master Facilities Plan projects, especially one that will be so visually meaningful and inspiring for our campus. We

are grateful to Bill and Tracy and to the Student Senate for making this project possible. It would not have happened without them.

The statue design was created for Missouri Southern by Brian Hanlon of Hanlon Sculpture Studio in Toms River, New Jersey. The bronze lion is one of Hanlon's more than 200 original art pieces, which are located throughout the world. Hanlon created a statue of Shaquille O'Neal for Louisiana State University and "The Pirate" at Seton Hall University in New York, as well as art for many other universities across the nation.

The plaza was designed by RDG Planning and Design of Des Moines, Iowa, the firm that helped develop MSSU's Master Facilities Plan. Construction of the plaza will begin this summer and is scheduled to be completed by the first day of the fall 2013 semester, when the statue will be unveiled.

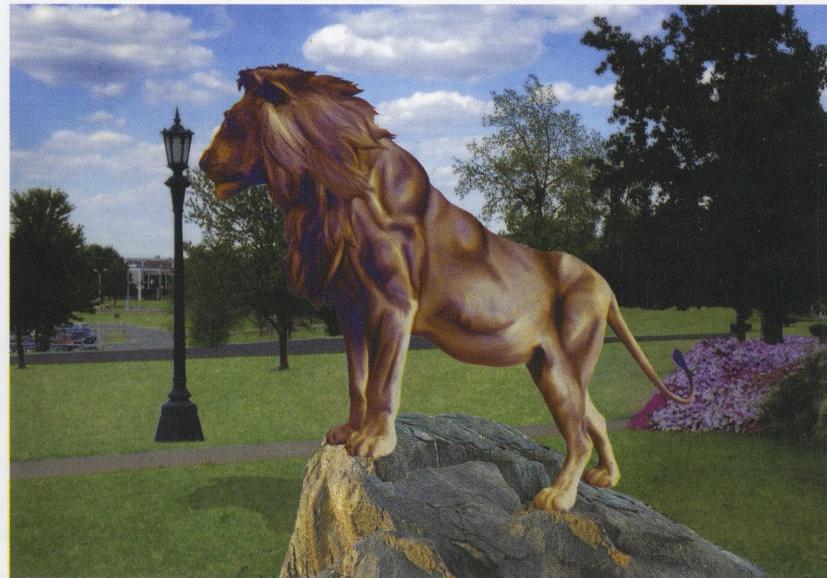
The Gipsons are both graduates of Missouri Southern and said they saw this project as an opportunity to share their affinity for their alma mater with current and future students.

We appreciate them and other alumni who support the university. And, we appreciate our current students who stepped up to help complete this project, which they've been interested in for several years.

We look forward to sharing the finished product of their generosity with you, and we hope that you can make it to campus to see it next year.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation

An artist's rendering shows what the bronze lion statue will look like. The lion will be part of a renovation of the Oval that will enhance the campus. The statue is made possible through donations from Bill, '85, and Tracy, '79, Gipson and the MSSU Student Senate. — Submitted photo



Greetings, alumni and friends!

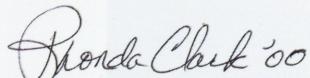
One of the great aspects of Missouri Southern is the chance to take students on study abroad excursions. In March, I joined Olive Sullivan, assistant professor of communication, and five students for a week in Paris, France, for the International Media Seminar, something the Institute of International Studies has helped 130 MSSU students attend since the seminar began in 1998.

This year's seminar featured some outstanding sessions, including one led by the legendary photo editor John G. Morris, 96, who worked at such publications as *Life*, *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. We toured Publicis Groupe, a PR and marketing agency, as well as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a 34-country group that promotes economic and social wellbeing.

Students explored Paris culture by visiting museums and historical sites or interacting with individuals at the local café or marketplace. Their photos are on pages 13-14.

It's almost impossible to place a value on this recent trip. For the students who went — Willis Brown, Candis Clark, Taylor Camden, Elizabeth Spencer and Samantha Zoltanski — the seminar and Paris became their classroom, and it's an experience they'll never forget.

Warm regards,



Rhonda Clark, '00,
crossroads Editor,
Assistant Professor, Communication



crossroads

Spring 2013 Staff Members

Annie Clarkson, '14
Public Relations



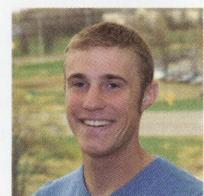
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Instructor embodies MSSU's mission

With a passion for improving worldwide literacy and teacher training in Third World countries, Dr. William (Willie) Edwards is the embodiment of Missouri Southern's international mission.



Dr. Edwards, an associate professor of teacher education, has spent considerable time in Pakistan, Mauritius, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone the past six years on various consulting projects for the International Reading Association and several non-governmental organizations. This has not been without some risk. In 2007, the vice chancellor of the University of Balochistan in Pakistan and the vice chancellor's bodyguards were assassinated the day before he was scheduled to leave for Quetta to work with that university.

One of his favorite destinations has been Mauritius, a beautiful island nation in the Indian Ocean several hundred miles off the coast of Madagascar. There he worked with the Mauritius Education Ministry and the teaching faculty at the University of Mauritius in the area of instructional techniques and teaching critical thinking skills through Socratic dialogue.

Dr. Edwards has made quite an impact in Bangladesh during extended trips in 2008, 2009 and 2010. He worked with Room to Read® by observing program operations and making recommendations on how their activities might be improved and with Save the Children® on its literacy program.

Most recently, he spent 17 days in Sierra Leone in West Africa assisting with an \$11.4 million U.S. Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program grant to the Catholic Relief Services. Dr. Edwards will be returning to Sierra Leone in May and December to

work with faculty at the Northern Polytechnic Institute on behalf of the International Reading Association.

And if that's not enough, Dr. Edwards will be leading a group of MSSU teacher education majors to San Ignacio, Belize, in the fall of 2013 for a four-week student teaching assignment. This will be the third year in a row that MSSU has sent a teaching delegation to the Central American nation.

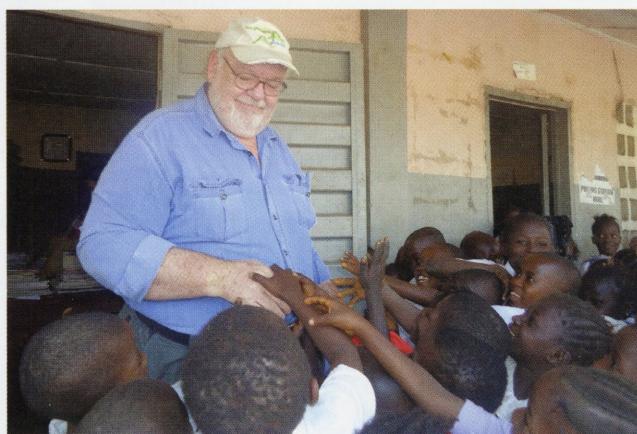
To show his appreciation for Missouri Southern's commitment to international education, Dr. Edwards recently donated \$10,000 to the International Mission Endowment Fund with the intent that it be used to help subsidize MSSU students studying abroad. The donation is in honor of his late parents, Cmdr. William L. and Rosemary F. Edwards.

The commander served in both the European and Pacific theaters during World War II and was part of a flotilla that evacuated General Chiang Kai-shek and his followers to Taiwan.

HARD M.
WEBSTER
HALL

He also served in the Korean conflict. Rosemary was a congressional aide to Frances P. Bolton, the first woman elected to Congress from Ohio.

Dr. Edwards' son, Michael, was MSSU's Outstanding Graduate in International Studies in 2008. He recently completed the



Dr. Willie Edwards, associate professor of education at MSSU, visits an elementary school in Sinkunia, Sierra Leone. Sinkunia is located in the remote northern part of the country approximately 20 miles from the Guinea border. — Submitted photo

Master of Global Studies program at Missouri State University and is coordinator of graduate admissions at MSU.

Willie Edwards is but one example of a Southern faculty member who has embraced the university's international mission and found his own particular niche. His students are the actual beneficiaries; the real-world experience he brings back to the classroom helps illustrate the need for American assistance in less privileged countries.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82
Director, Institute of International Studies

Grad helps others to achieve goals

The Department of Kinesiology offers two degrees: Bachelor of Science in Education, physical education K-12 major, and Bachelor of Science, health promotion and wellness major.



Students who aspire to careers afforded by these degrees frequently desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Michael Daugherty, '07, discovered his passion for helping children with special needs while pursuing a physical education degree at Missouri Southern.

Kinesiology students often have opportunities through coursework, major's club membership, and service learning to help promote health and well-being to people of all ages. It is through one of these experiences that students discover the target population in which they would like to focus their careers.

All students are required, for example, to take an adapted physical education course. This course provides information and strategies for assisting future professionals with designing and implementing appropriate physical activities for individuals with disabilities. Students visit facilities like the Cerebral Palsy Center, Magic Moments Riding Therapy, and Community Support Services. In addition, they take an active role in assisting athletes in Special Olympics bowling, basketball, and track and field. As a capstone assignment, students complete a case study on an individual with a disability. This assignment is often an eye-opener for the student and leads to a greater level of respect and compassion for persons with disabilities.

Participation in assignments and activities of this class helped inspire Michael to pursue an opportunity to work as a physical education teacher with children with special needs.

After completing his Bachelor's in physical education, Michael accepted a teaching position

at Neosho High School. In his first year, he co-taught a physical education class, which had 10 children with disabilities mainstreamed into the class. These students often sat in the bleachers or walked the halls during class time.

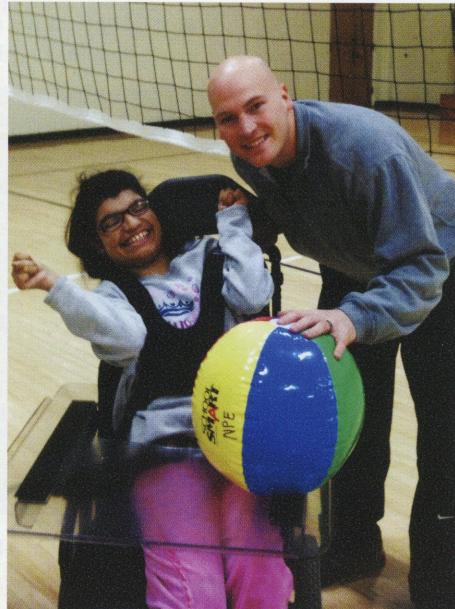
"Needless to say, it bugged me," Michael said. "I responded to the challenge and frustration by proposing an idea to the principal. I expressed a desire to develop and teach an adaptive physical education class. The objective would be to give students with disabilities the opportunity to experience P.E. in a much more interactive and meaningful way. Much to my delight, the proposal was accepted, and I was asked if I needed anything. I requested the purchase of two Nintendo Wiis."

"The class is organized in much the same way as the regular physical education class. There is a warm up, an activity, and a cooldown. The Wii technology has been used to give the students an opportunity to participate in sport activities for the first time. They can bowl, play tennis, golf and play baseball. They absolutely love it. The class has been well received, and the students have extended their appreciation to me time and time again. That alone has made this one of the most worthwhile and rewarding experiences in my career. I get a lot of joy for a little effort. It's kind of a no-brainer to me."

Michael's outgoing personality, creativity and passion for teaching has had a huge impact, not only on students with disabilities, but on all the students and administrators at Neosho High School.

"I'm nothing special," he said. "I just saw an opportunity as a teacher to help students achieve their individual goals. The greatest impact has been on me. I have a strong sense of thankfulness for health and well-being for me and my family. And, above all, the students in my adaptive class give me an unbelievable sense of joy and inspiration."

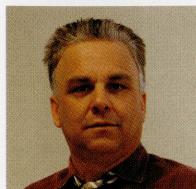
— Jean Hobbs, Interim Department Chair and Professor, Kinesiology



Velma Quiroz, 18, enjoys time in the adaptive physical education class at Neosho High School with teacher Michael Daugherty, '07, who is responsible for creating the class. — Submitted photo

The oral comm tradition: Evolved.

In the infamous words of actor Jerry Seinfeld: "According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number



two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy."

Oral communication is

a general education requirement for students at Missouri Southern and many other universities across the state and nation. The ability to clearly communicate and adapt a message to an audience has proven throughout time to be a desired skill professionally, socially and civically.

In August 2010, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon announced his public agenda for higher education. The agenda included a grant opportunity provided through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to "enable the redesign of 13 high-enrollment undergraduate courses using innovative and technology-based learning tools to improve student learning, persistence and program completion, as well as reduce instructional costs." The National Center for Academic Transformation is an independent, not-for-profit organization chosen to lead the universities in the redesign.

In one swoop, the governor had effectively signaled an end to the business-as-usual approach of higher education institutions, emphasizing a more profitable approach of efficiency and effectiveness.

The communication department was approached and selected to serve as MSSU's entrant into the governor's redesign starting in the spring of 2011.

I really was not aware what the whole pro-

cess was going to entail in April 2011.

NCAT provided six models for course redesign. In order to qualify for the grant, the course proposal developed by myself and Shanna Slavings, assistant professor of communication, had to follow one of the six models created by NCAT. The redesign model used for the course is the replacement model, which "reduces the number of in-class meetings and replaces some in-class time with out-of-class, online, interactive learning activities."

The replacement model allowed the department to cut back 27 sections to one section serving the same number of students, which has proven to be an effective cost-reduction strategy. The course assessment data has shown that students neither learned more nor less from the redesigned course than what was previously being learned in the traditional format.

"We no longer have to gather at city hall or a large theater to get information or to engage in public discourse," Slavings said. "Globalization and communication technology have added new aspects to the traditional concept of 'speaker' and 'audience.' The audience is now anyone and often can participate in feedback at various times. The audience is giving more feedback now than ever before."

The promise of course redesign and changing educational practices is with us to stay. Because of increased public scrutiny, budget shortfalls, educators' resistance to any change, or most importantly, student needs, redesign will continue statewide and nationally.

In 2013, Kathleen Denker wrote in *Communication Teacher* that, "Higher education will continue to see a continued focus on academics' productivity, both in and out of the classroom."

— Kelly B. Larson, Professor of Communication and Communication Department Head
Shanna Slavings, Assistant Professor of Communication, contributed to this column

For information on NCAT and course redesign:

- ▶ http://governor.mo.gov/newsroom/2011/Gov_Nixon_announces_250_000_national_grant_to_Missouri_s_public_four_year_universities
- ▶ http://www.thencat.org/States/MO/MO_Savings.html
- ▶ http://www.thencat.org/PlanRes/R2R_ModCrsRed.htm
- ▶ <http://missourilearningcommons.org/>

Group helps prepare future leaders

This year, students of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business are being challenged to use their knowledge and skills to succeed outside of school.



Members of the Collegiate DECA organization, which prepares emerging leaders, has worked to recruit new members and receive recognition at the state level. After battling the wintry weather, members garnered several prestigious honors at the Collegiate DECA State Career Development Conference.

This year's MSSU team, led by outgoing State President Cara Nicole Gooch, sophomore marketing and management major, was awarded the State Community Service Award for the team's work with Show-Me Hunger: Unite the Fight Campaign, which is the state C-DECA service initiative.

Four MSSU students received awards, highlighted by Ryan Prisock, senior finance and economics major, with the achievement of the state champion in Corporate Finance. The team of Venus Day, junior general business major, and Raycee Thompson, freshman accounting major, placed third in Business Ethics. Kyle Prisock, junior undeclared major, placed third in Travel and Tourism. Also,

co-sponsor Megan Douglas, instructor of management, received the state Advisor of the Year award. The MSSU C-DECA chapter submitted her nomination.

These members will represent Missouri Southern in Anaheim, California, for the International Career Development Conference in April.

Dr. Tom Schmidt, associate professor of marketing, is working hard to coordinate the business school's first undergraduate research competition. The competition provides our students with the foundation to research a fundamental principle and an organization or business. After completing their schooling at Southern, many students continue their education with a Master's program. This competition will expose them to the level of research and writing that will be expected. Students will also be awarded through recognition, and top winners will receive a cash reward.

The best and brightest students do attend Southern, and as a business school, it is important to highlight the achievements of our students. Through our students, the Robert W. Plaster School of Business at Missouri Southern is being recognized not only in our community but also nationwide.

— Dr. John Groesbeck, Dean,
Robert. W. Plaster School of Business



Collegiate -DECA members Kyle Prisock (left), Ryan Prisock, Venus Day, Raycee Thompson and co-sponsor Megan Douglas, instructor of management, display trophies the MSSU team won at the C-DECA State Career Development Conference in February at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. — Submitted photo



FULL CIRCLE

Meagan Adams, '08, is the new alumni relations coordinator for the Missouri Southern Alumni Association. — Photo by Elizabeth Spencer, '14

Familiar face returns to assist alumni and students.

For this Lion, "living life to the fullest" is her personal motto. And now, Meagan (Wirth) Adams, '08, will use her energy to enhance the alumni experience at Missouri Southern. In March, Adams was named the new alumni relations coordinator for the Missouri Southern Alumni Association. She replaces Elisa Bryant, '04, who joined the Missouri Southern Foundation as a development officer in January.

"I'd always thought it would be fun to work at the collegiate level," Adams said. "After my first job as a program specialist with the Girl Scouts, I knew I wanted to do something similar but in higher education. I thought an alumni association, career services, or something along those lines would be great. I wasn't really looking for a new position. I just happened to read an article in the *Joplin Globe* about Elisa Bryant being promoted to the Foundation ... I decided to send my résumé in and see what happened. It turned out wonderful."

Adams grew up in southwest Missouri. After receiving a degree in communication, public relations emphasis, she landed her first job with Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The position had her planning events and being responsible for all that entailed, from coordinating and budgeting to community and media relations. Her most recent position was with Freeman Health System as executive assistant for the chief medical officer.

"We are very excited that Meagan is joining the Missouri Southern family," said Lee Elliff Pound, '86, Alumni Association director. "She will bring with her new ideas, event planning and budgeting experience. Meagan has strong experience working with volunteers and will fit in very nicely with the Alumni Association."

Adams is proud to return to her alma mater and the Alumni Association, where she did an internship her senior year.

"Working at this level was something that I wanted but wasn't sure that I would accomplish," she said. "Now that I have been given the opportunity, I feel it is one of my greatest accomplishments thus far."

Adams lives in Carthage, Missouri, with her husband, Chance. She has a secret passion for cooking and baking and enjoys sharing her creations with others. Adams plans to continue to grow herself and pursue a Master's degree at some point.

"I don't want to be stagnant; I want to continue to better myself," she said.

She encourages others to pursue their goals in life.

"Don't give up," she said. "Know it's going to be hard. You're going to have to put in extra time and effort but don't be discouraged if you are not where you want to be. All anyone can do is try your hardest, and when the right opportunity comes along, the door will open." 

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

REVIVING THE PATSY

First play returns for encore presentations at Southern.



Theatre students, alumni, faculty and staff revive *The Patsy*. The first Joplin Junior College play debuted December 20, 1937. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

In December 1937, Lola Houk took to the stage as Sadie Buchanan, alongside seven of her classmates, in *The Patsy*, the first play produced by Joplin Junior College. On February 9 at the Bud Walton Theatre, Lola (Houk) Murphy returned to see *The Patsy*, this time in front row center.

Murphy entered the theatre with excitement, sat beside her family, and watched the play she was once a part of.

"I enjoyed it immensely; it was very great," Murphy said. "I enjoyed every minute of it. Back in my growing up days, I was in plays from the time I was in grade school up through college, and just went right on up."

Murphy was a progressive during the time she attended college. She went on



to get her license in cosmetology, and she hasn't stopped. Murphy enjoys bowling every week.

"I'm in my 90s and still going," she said.

The revival of *The Patsy* included current theatre students and alumni as cast members. Alumni included Sam Claussen, '70 and '74, as "Trip" Busty;

Lyle Burrow, '90, as Francis Patrick O'Flaherty; and Cassie Lynch, '09.

Claussen graduated from Missouri Southern in 1970 with a degree in math and again in 1974 with a degree in theatre. He returned to Southern in 1977 as a theatre professor.

As an instructor, Claussen has acted, directed, been a technical director, and built the stage management and lighting programs. His passion was and still remains with the lighting department. He was a consultant and designer for the Bud Walton Theatre.

"I wanted to be involved with *The Patsy* because of the fact that it was going to celebrate the 75th anniversary (of Southern)," said Claussen.

"I had eight lines, and it is fun. Cam-

eos like that are probably the most fun."

Burrow began his career with Southern's theatre department right after graduation.

"I started here part-time and it's turned into a full-time position, and I've spent most of my life here," said Burrow.

During his time at Southern, he attended many theatre conventions across the U.S. with his classmates and professors.

Burrow attended the first lighting convention with Claussen, who was his instructor at the time, and two other classmates in 1987.

Like Claussen, Burrow was involved with the theatre where he did set designing, lighting, stage production, directing and acting. He focused on technical directing. When the opportunity came along to act in *The Patsy*, he was more than happy to be a part of the show.

"I looked forward to the revival in April just for the fact that we are trying to get a lot of the alumni back for that, and there is going to be a reception before the show," Burrow said.

An encore performance was presented on April 26.

Dr. Jim Lile, director and theatre department chair, was happy with the decision to involve alumni and was also pleased with the audience reactions to the play.

"For *The Patsy* to have had the run that it had illustrates it is a pretty good little play," Lile said. "Not a lot of them have survived. People haven't kept reading them and studying them. So it is really fun to sort of blow the dust off of one and see that it still works."

By the last two nights of the production, the show was sold out. At Saturday's performance, the production crew added more chairs for the audience and for Murphy and her family.

"It was terrific that she was able to come; that was particularly special," said Lile.

"She was so sharp, and I think she had a wonderful time. She was very happy to be introduced to the audience that night, more than happy to stick around for some pictures, and even after the pictures were taken, she was still there on the stage talking to the actors."

— Samantha Zoltanski, '14



Above, Cassie Lynch, '09, (left) plays the role of Mrs. William Harrington and Hunter Dowell, senior theatre major, plays her husband. Left, freshman theatre major Kaitlyn Hembree (right) plays the part of Sadie Buchanan in *The Patsy*, the same part portrayed by Lola (Houk) Murphy in the original production at Joplin Junior College. The pair met for the first time at the February 9 performance in the Bud Walton Theatre. Below, senior theatre major Devri Brock (left) plays Grace Harrington, as Dowell talks to junior theatre major Abby Railsback, who plays Patricia Harrington in the play.

— Photos by Samantha Zoltanski, '14





So this is life on the streets of Paris.

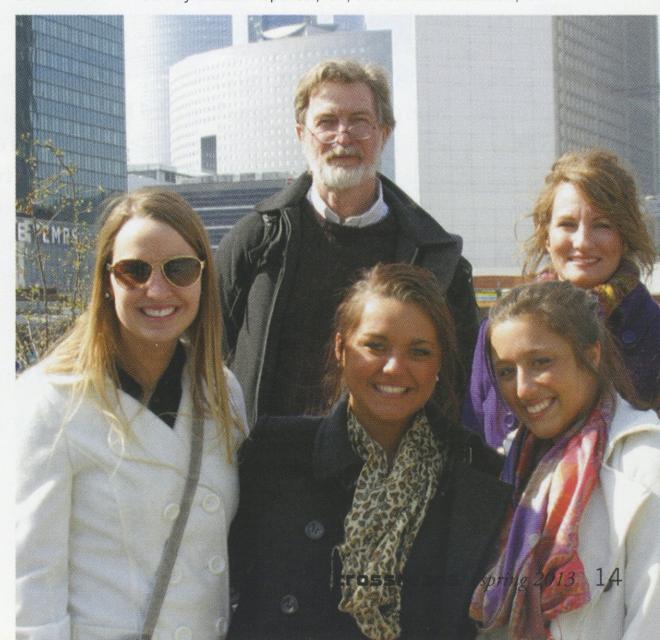
The French, compared to Americans, walk more, eat slower, drink less and savor life. I joined four other Missouri Southern students for the International Media Seminar at the American University of Paris, March 25-29. For most of us, this was our first experience in France. Many alumni may recall this study abroad experience. The one-week seminar began in 1998, and since 1999, Southern has sent 130 students to participate.

This photomontage helps us share the everyday Paris, not just the touristy Eiffel Tower or Louvre. We learned quickly that French dining was an experience to be savored. Even a cup of coffee was served slowly and rarely in a to-go cup. Most people living in Paris do not own automobiles. They walk several miles each day to catch the metro or bus. And if they miss the metro? *C'est la vie.* Another train will stop in a few minutes. Groceries are purchased one bag at a time, beverage glasses are small compared to those in the U.S. However, the French love rich desserts, fresh pastries, wine and fresh flowers. Dog owners frequently take their pets along with them to the corner shop or café.

The French may have mastered the arts of parallel parking and caramelizing crème brûlée, but Americans know the art of a warm smile on the street and multitasking while grabbing a bite to go. We found intricacies to be appreciated in each culture after this learning experience. 

— Elizabeth Spencer, '14

Photos: Left, sidewalk cafes are a common site, and electric bicycles are plugged in and ready to go, as the rider demonstrates below left. Lower, from left, fine dining is an experience to savor; a pampered pooch and its owner take a stroll; Shakespeare and Co. is a bookstore that caters to English speakers. Below, Candis Clark (left), Taylor Camden and Samantha Zoltanski in the front row, and Willis Brown (left) and Elizabeth Spencer attended the International Media Seminar. — Photos by Elizabeth Spencer, '14, and Samantha Zoltanski, '14



Q&A:

Associated Press editor shares his thoughts on the changing field of journalism and special memories of his time at Missouri Southern.

Q: How did you come to be employed by the Associated Press?

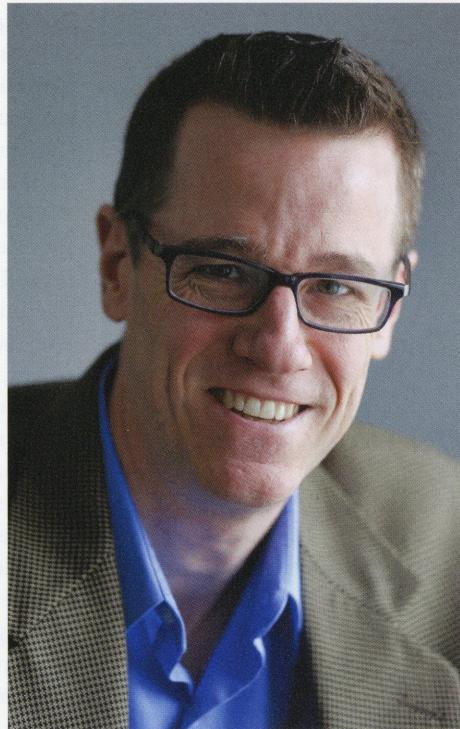
A: After graduating (then MSSC) in 1991, I worked for daily newspapers in Springfield, Missouri; Fort Myers, Florida; and Independence, Missouri, before being hired as an AP reporter in Kansas City in 1996. In 2002, I became AP's news editor for Utah and Idaho before taking that same job back in Kansas City, covering Missouri and Kansas.

Q: How has work in your field changed in the past decade?

A: For better or worse, journalism is faster than it's ever been. The pipes that carry our content to newspapers, broadcasters, magazines and websites have changed. The broadband most of us use at home has had a profound democratizing effect on newsgathering, and more content providers means more people in your space. You have to distinguish yourself not only in what you're reporting but the pace at which you report it. Attention spans are shorter, and you have a small window to report something lasting. But at AP, we've never sacrificed accuracy for speed, and it remains a premium quality above all others. I'm proud of that.

Q: You have won many prestigious awards. Which one do you value the most and why?

A: I recently went to Vanderbilt to pick up APME's top honor for deadline reporting for the journalism my crew performed after the Joplin tornado in 2011. As heartbroken as I was for the city I called home for four years, I was just that proud of my team for courageous reporting under some daunting circumstances. You discover a lot about people when you send



Chris Clark, '91, Missouri/Kansas news editor for the Associated Press, has seen many changes in the field of journalism since his time at Southern, where he served as editor-in-chief of The Chart and was the Missouri College Media Association Journalist of the Year in 1991. — Submitted photo

them into the full dark and they come back with something great. Even if that means bringing this grim, awful thing to a global audience.

Q: How did your education and experiences at Missouri Southern prepare you for your career?

A: When I entered college in 1987, you could probably count on one hand how many schools offered such a hands-on, dive-right-in experience that Chad

Stebbins had nurtured at Southern. The experiences of helping put out the campus newspaper, quite literally from the first semester, built my leadership skills and taught me tough lessons about the importance of accuracy in journalism. They also taught me about being accountable to other people, and they underlined the value of leading by example.

Q: What advice do you have for someone wanting to pursue this type of career?

A: Be as good with a camera (stills and video) as you are with text. Journalists that bring everything to the table are among the most prized assets for news outlets these days. Learn Final Cut, work on framing good pictures, and work hard at writing simply and declaratively. There will be a market for you, and you'll thrive.

Q: What is your favorite Southern memory?

A: On some of the late nights spent designing the paper, like all college kids we fueled up on candy bars and Mountain Dew. To keep ourselves awake, we'd belch the night away. As loud as we could. I mean, some real, full-throated stuff. On one such night — which coincided with a huge crush I had on one of the college counselors who often worked late in the same building — the belching got so loud and out of hand that she came down the hall to the office and asked me if I was OK. I was ecstatic to know she cared.

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Chris Clark, '91, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. He lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri, with his wife, Laurel, and two daughters: Aidan, 12, and Raegan, 9.

"Be as good with a camera (stills and video) as you are with text. Journalists that bring everything to the table are among the most prized assets for news outlets these days."



Above and below, Kisa Clark, '11, shoots footage of the "Garden of Eden" in Lucas, Kansas. Clark's documentary, which she produced while a student at Missouri Southern, premiered October 21, 2012, in the town's theater. The film explores the unique art forms in the small town. —Courtesy

Primo production

Recent graduate premieres her first documentary.

Few moments in life make you realize you have accomplished something special. I recently was fortunate to have one of these moments at my documentary film premiere on October 21, 2012, in Lucas, Kansas. Why this small town? Well, the documentary is about a tiny, quirky, amazing town in the middle of Nowhere, Kansas. Although only about 60 people came to the premiere, it is going to forever be one of my proudest days.

As a recent graduate of Missouri Southern, I realize how fortunate I am to have received an education from this institution and the relationships I established. My documentary, *Not an Ordinary Kansas Garden: A Documentary Exploring the Grassroots Art and Town of Lucas, KS*, would never have come to realization had it not been for the professors, advisers and friends at MSSU (along with my wonderful parents) who helped me. Not once did they doubt my reasoning or ability to want to make an approximately 50-minute documentary about some tiny town in north-central Kansas, about six hours from Joplin.

They encouraged me in my most stressed moments, the many hours at a com-



Order the DVD: *Not an Ordinary Kansas Garden: A Documentary Exploring the Grassroots Art and Town of Lucas, KS* on eBay.

For more info: www.grassrootsart.net

puter editing, and gave me priceless advice to complete the film.

Lucas is special because of its Grassroots Art Community. Grassroots Art is defined by the Grassroots Art Center in Lucas as "art made by people with no formal artistic training using ordinary materials in an extraordinary way."

This extraordinary art community was started by S.P. Dinsmoor, a Civil War

veteran who moved to Kansas in the late 19th century to farm. After retiring, he built a home and created dozens of cement sculptures around his home that became a tourist attraction called "The Garden of Eden."

Since Dinsmoor, many creative artists have come to Lucas, and the Grassroots Art Center was created to preserve this art form. The people and artists of Lucas are also some of the best people you can meet. Fewer than 400 people reside in Lucas, and its town slogan "expect the unexpected" sums up the community.

When I completed a version of my documentary for my senior thesis project, I knew I wasn't finished. In June 2012, the town added the Bowl Plaza, a public restroom covered in amazing mosaics, which I added to the documentary for the final version.

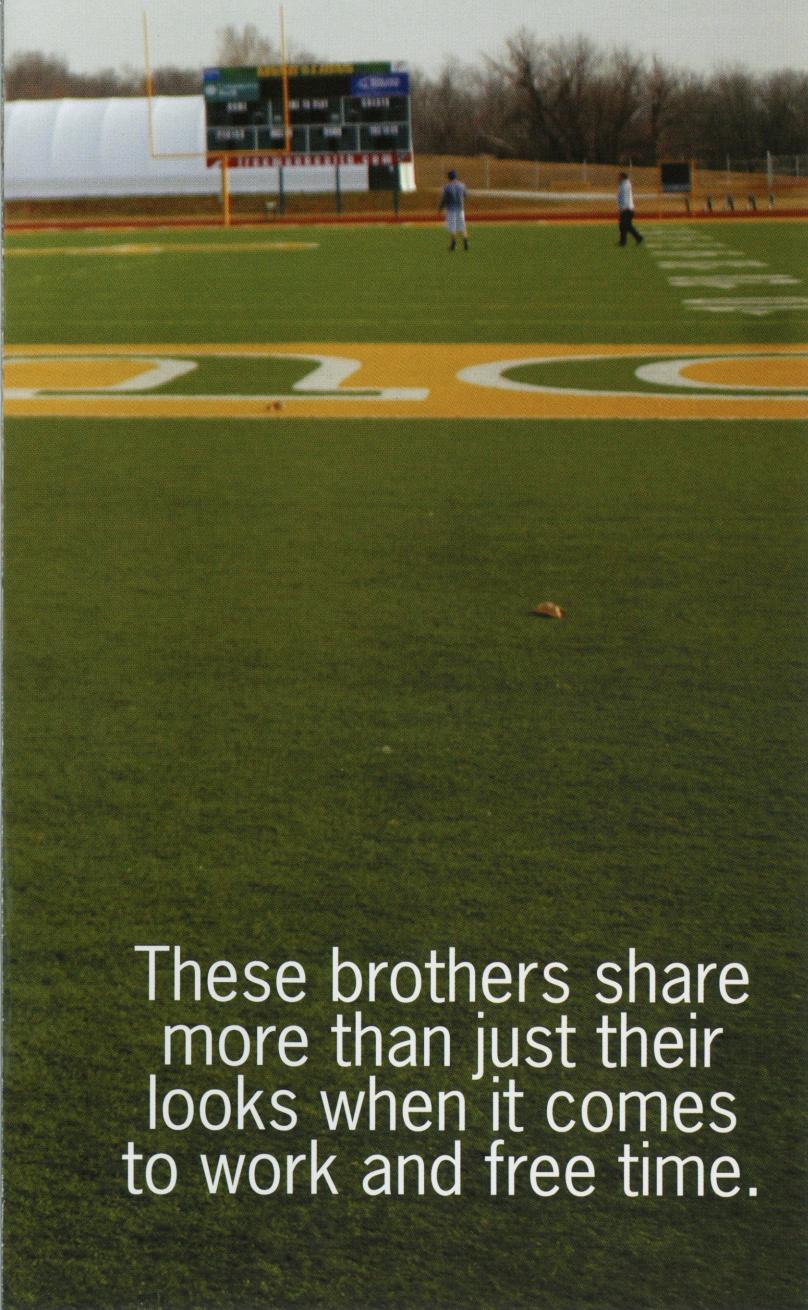
At the premiere, I was nervous to see the reaction from the townspeople and the people in the film, but the reviews were positive. The smiles on their faces after seeing the film made every hour of work more than worthwhile. I felt even more like a star when they asked me to sign their DVD copies.

— Kisa Clark, '11



Twin brothers Aaron Lewis, '99, director of conferences and meetings (left), and Caleb Lewis, '99, simulation coordinator in the Health Sciences Building, are both alums and employees of Missouri Southern State University. — Photo by Elizabeth Spencer, '14

DOUBLE the FUN



These brothers share more than just their looks when it comes to work and free time.

It's a small, warm office. A whiteboard with a lengthy "To Do List" written in blue Expo marker was displayed in the office. A few items are marked off, but it's pretty evident Aaron Lewis, '99, is a busy person.

Set back and relaxed at his desk, he welcomed people into his office. A framed poster of Fred G. Hughes Stadium hung on the wall behind the desk of this proud employee and alumnus of Missouri Southern.

Across campus sits another office, slightly bigger, but neat and tidy, with a plant in the corner that doesn't look neglected. Caleb Lewis, '99, is also proud to be a Southern employee and alumnus.

These brothers grew up together, played the same sports, including college football, and majored with the same degree. Just when it looks like they couldn't be more alike, identical twins Aaron and Caleb Lewis are co-workers at Southern.

"Students and faculty constantly confuse us on campus. I get students in the Lion's Den say, 'Hey, Mr. Lewis, what's up?' and I just think to myself, I don't know that kid, he must think I'm Caleb," said Aaron.

Aaron graduated with a degree in health promotion and wellness, married his wife, Miranda, and moved to Dallas for a few years. They returned in March 2008, when Aaron was named athletic facilities coordinator for Southern. He recently accepted a new position as director of conferences and meetings last fall.

Caleb also graduated in December 1999 from MSSU with a degree in health promotion and wellness, plus an associate in respiratory care. He went to work for St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, but in 2010, he joined Southern as the simulation coordinator in the Health Sciences Building. He and his wife, Vanessa, have three daughters: Olivia, Salma and Anna.

The brothers are used to people confusing them. They have been dealing with this their whole lives, although rarely taking advantage of it.

"Only once can I remember Caleb and I switching. I didn't want to go to class one day, so he went for me," said Aaron. "I usually sat in the back of the classroom not talking; Caleb felt the need to raise his hand a lot and answer questions."

The brothers are also major Denver Broncos fans.

"On Monday nights, we try to make it a family deal to get together and watch football," said Aaron.

They enjoy other similar things, like landscaping and restoring old cars.

"Our dad used to take us to old car shows, and he had Corvettes, so we both learned that kind of stuff from him," said Caleb.

The brothers moved to the Joplin area when they were in the eighth grade from Greeley, Colorado. These twins had no problem fitting into the college atmosphere once they started at Southern. They both were walk-ons for the Lions football team. Aaron played deep snapper and wide receiver, while Caleb was kicker and punter.

For these twins, work and play may be the same for now, but it wouldn't change much even if they were separated by geography.

"What it is, I guess, is that no matter where we work or live, we will always have that strong bond with one another that other siblings may not have," said Aaron. 

— Gabby Heath, '13



Putting OTHERS FIRST

Joplin's mayor and Southern alumna finds value in serving her community.

Jorja Johnson, 6, claims she beat Joplin's mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean, '99, at a professional tennis exhibition last summer at Millennium Tennis and Fitness. Several days later, Jorja and her brother J.W. received a thank you note with an inspiring message from the mayor.

"She told me to practice hard and she would watch me at Wimbledon some day," Jorja said.

Attendance at community events is just one of the many duties Colbert-Kean tackles in her capacity as Joplin's mayor. She was elected to the Joplin City Council in 2006 and became mayor in April 2012. Along with her regular duties, Colbert-Kean wants to support as many community events as possible during her first term.

"I want to be approachable, and I want people to know that if me being mayor helps to promote an event, I want to be there to support them," Colbert-Kean said.

The importance of attending community events was something she learned in her years as a marketing major at Missouri Southern.

"Being in the Marketing Club, I was taught by Dr. (Brad) Kleindl and Dr. (Larry) Goode ('62) to always take my resume everywhere," she said. "This is how I got my first job. One day, we had a speaker who was the marketing director at the mall and afterward I chatted with her and gave her my resume. Several months later, before I even graduated, she called me and said they had my resume and they had a newly created job that she thought was perfect for me, so I started right after graduation. I was very excited, and my starting salary was a lot of money back then. So Southern was a godsend for me. It provided me with an excellent foundation."

Today, that foundation serves Colbert-Kean well in pursuit of a number of business and personal ventures. Along with her duties as Joplin's mayor, she is a mother of four, a Realtor with Charles Burt Realtors, co-owner of the small-business consulting firm Prayerful Portions LLC, an active member and choir singer at her church, and a board member on a plethora of civic organizations, including the Joplin Emancipation Committee, the George Washington Carver Board, and an advisory member of Southern's Robert W. Plaster School of Business.

Colbert-Kean's venture into local politics and public service was never planned.

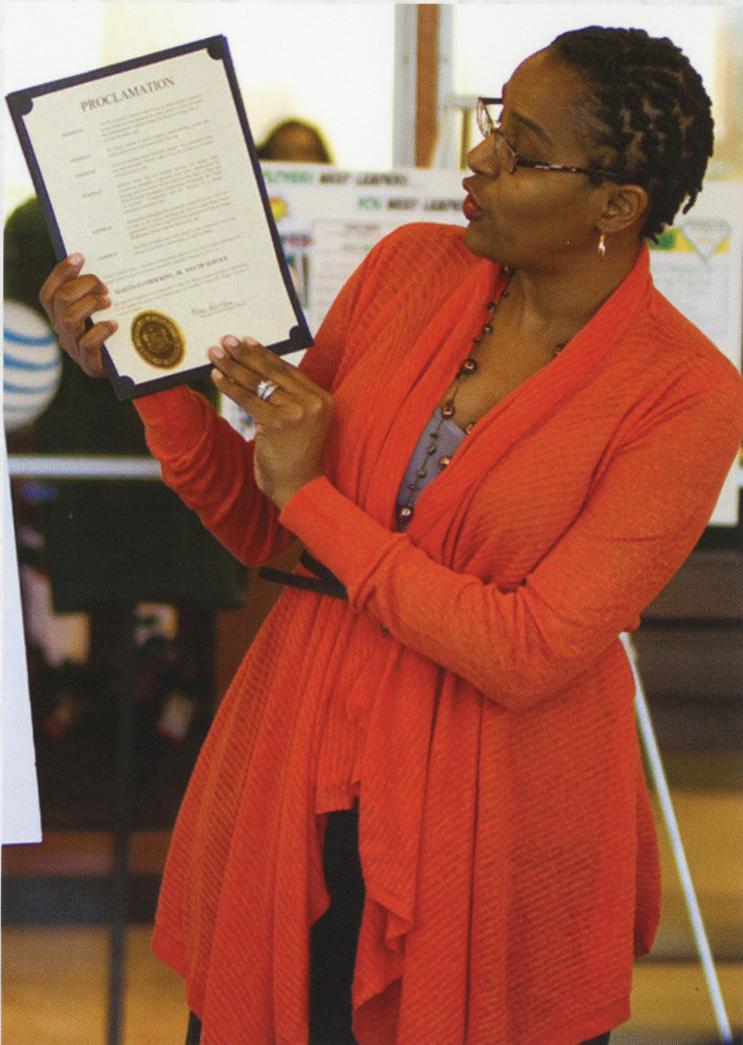
"Jim West was the catalyst; his heart is for the community," she said. "He encouraged me to run when there were six seats coming open. We were looking

for members of the African-American community to get involved. I decided this was a chance for me to help people who don't have a voice or who are scared to voice their opinions. That is my sole reason for being here."

Former council member West knew that Colbert-Kean was right for the job.

"Melodee has already done so much for our city," West said. "I call Melodee the million-dollar mayor. Because of her affiliation with the National League of Cities, she was able to get a multimillion dollar grant for road improvements in Joplin."

Colbert-Kean is the latest of only four women to serve as Joplin's mayor. She is proud to be the first African-American mayor. According to the 2010 census, the African-American community represents 3.3 percent of Joplin's population.



"I don't see the significance as much as my parents and other black people in the community, and they say they are so proud," Colbert-Kean said. "I am extremely humble about what this is doing for the black community. Someone has to be first. I told the media that day that I look forward to the day when we don't have to have firsts like this, but for now, I'm proud and humble."

She is optimistic about Joplin's progress, especially since the May 2011 tornado.

"About 85 percent of our businesses are back or in the process of being back," Colbert-Kean said. "But on the bright side, we have businesses that are new that are coming to Joplin. When the community needed to pull together, that's what we did. From the governor to the president, they took care of Joplin when we needed it."

She admits she was star struck about her opportunity to meet President Barack Obama and Missouri Governor Jay Nixon during their visit to Joplin shortly after the tornado.

"In a million years, I would have never thought I would get to ride in the presidential limo," Colbert-Kean said.

Joplin's economy was unique in the months following the tornado.

"For what we lost in jobs, we gained in construction jobs and cleanup crews," she said. "Americorps hired a lot of people, and St. John's (now Mercy) kept all of their employees."

Colbert-Kean is grateful for the role Southern played in the tornado recovery and the important role it plays in Joplin's future development.

"The relationship between the city and the college is very important because you have potential corporations that are

Family: Colbert-Kean is married to William Kean. Her son Tyler, 26, serves in the U.S. Marine Corps; daughter Typhanee, 24, attends college in Tennessee; her husband's daughter Amber, 20, attends college in Atlanta; and their daughter Alissa, 6, enjoys attending council meetings and other community events with her mother.

looking to locate in the city and those people who are working with those corporations are looking for excellent schools, and Southern is just as good as any, if not better," she said.

Colbert-Kean believes council members work beyond their differences by focusing on the common purpose of growing the city.

"We all have a vision of making Joplin a first-class community," she said. "We want people to come here to shop, we want them to live here, we want them to go to school here, we want them to see Joplin for its potential."

One look at the mayor's Facebook page shows that Colbert-Kean does more than run council meetings and attend ribbon cuttings.

"She's a people person," West said. "She listens, and when you get done talking to her, you feel like she's there to support you."

Whether she's talking about business or sports or growing up in her hometown of Joplin, Colbert-Kean never fails to acknowledge her faith and family.

"I hope I never come across like it's me trying to take credit for where I am because I know that it's God that put me where I am," she said.

Her church family played a key role in guiding her, even when she was in school and became a mother of two soon after high school graduation.

"My husband, William, is such a support throughout all this," Colbert-Kean said. "He's the peach to my cobbler. He's so loving and giving. I realize my family is sacrificing for my time, and I'm so thankful that they're willing and able to do that and still support me." 

— Annie Clarkson, '15



Facing page, Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean presents a proclamation to Missouri Southern for its Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project on January 21, 2013. Top, Colbert-Kean and her daughter, Alissa, wave to the crowd as they travel the Homecoming parade route last fall at MSSU. Above, Colbert-Kean enjoys the antics of the Harlem Globetrotters when they visited Leggett & Platt Athletic Center on February 6. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13

Assistant coach brings D-I experience courtside for the Lions.

Listed at 6-foot-2, Jeff Boschee wasn't the tallest basketball player on the court, but his hard work and dedication to the game earned him an athletic scholarship at the University of Kansas.

"When I was little, my motivation was to get to a high-major, Division I school," Boschee said.

The fact that he grew up in small-town Valley City, North Dakota — population just under 7,000 — did not affect Boschee's dreams.

"I have always been a self-motivated person from when I was little," Boschee said. "My brother (Mike, who is head coach at Bemidji State in Wisconsin) taught me everything I knew when I was younger until I got to college. I always felt guilty if I didn't work out, or if I didn't work out with a purpose."

This spring, Boschee finished his third season as assistant coach for the Southern men's basketball team, and his time at KU prepared him for a coaching career. Playing for Roy Williams at KU helped Boschee learn about not only basketball but how to be a better person. In Boschee's eyes, Williams was like a second father; in return, Williams expected a lot out of Boschee.

For his efforts, Boschee earned Big 12 Freshman of the Year, Most Outstanding player in the Big 12 Tournament, and third team All-Conference his senior year.

After his eligibility was up in 2003, Boschee declined NBA draft camps because he was burned-out and stayed at KU to finish his degree and intern under Williams.

After graduation, Boschee returned to the court and played in the United States Basketball League in Salina, Kansas. He also played on a NIKE traveling team in major exhibition games. His most memorable experience was playing overseas in Athens, Greece, and Grindavik, Iceland.

Once again, Boschee found himself getting burned-out and decided to pursue coaching. His first position was as an assistant coach for two years at Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas. His first head coaching position lasted three years at the Barstow School in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I started coaching basketball because it was something I decided to do when I was in college," Boschee said. "My brother coaches, and I admire him greatly, and I admire Roy

Williams as well. Those two played a big part in my decision."

After coaching high school basketball, Boschee wanted to advance into collegiate sports. That's when he contacted Lions head coach Robert Corn, '78.

Boschee was interested in MSSU's basketball program because of its great tradition and winning program under Corn. Boschee is pleased with his decision.

"Coach Corn has been a great coach to be under," Boschee said. "He lets his assistants do a lot of work. A lot of assistants just sit and stand on the sidelines and say things here and there. Coach Corn actually lets coach (Ronnie) Ressel ('92), who is the other assistant coach, do the defense, and I do the offense. He gives us a lot of responsibility."

Boschee continues to learn more every day about the game. He also loves seeing athletes improve — on and off the court.

"Coach Boschee has been a great addition to our program," Corn said. "He is a family man who has an outstanding wife and beautiful daughter. He brings instant recognition since he was a great player at Kansas, which has helped us in recruiting. He is very knowledgeable about the game and does a great job of teaching it to our players. He is a hard working and loyal young man who has a great future in this profession."

Off the court, Boschee is working on his Master's in athletic administration from William Woods University. He and his wife, Jamie, own Chica Bella Salon & Day Spa in Joplin. He also runs the Jeff Boschee Basketball Clinics in Kansas each June.

"It takes a great work ethic, commitment, drive and motivation to become great," Boschee said. "To be a really special player, a kid needs to know failure and experience it, but not accept it, and learn from it and be able to push through when things get tough. A bumpy road makes the destination great."

— Larrita Gipson, '12

JEFF BOSCHEE

Professional

Assistant coach, Missouri Southern State University
Head coach, Barstow School, Kansas City, Missouri
Assistant coach, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Basketball career

Played professional basketball for the United States Basketball League, American Basketball Association, and in Europe
Big 12 Freshman of the Year in 1999-2000 for the Kansas Jayhawks; led Jayhawks to a Final Four appearance in 2002; holds the KU record for 3-pointers with 338

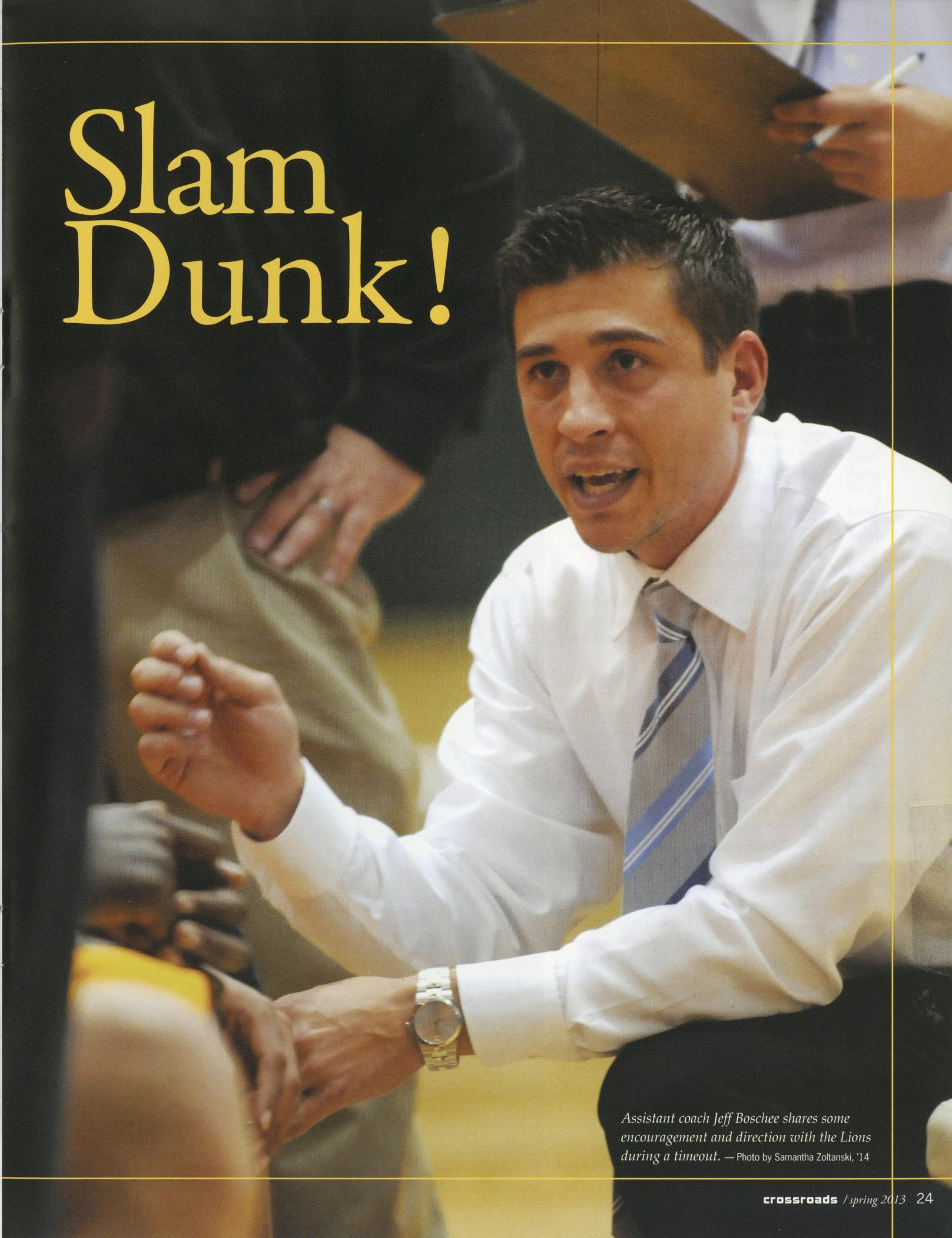
Education

University of Kansas, Bachelor's in sports management

Personal

Wife: Jamie; Daughter: Mary Rose

Slam Dunk!



Assistant coach Jeff Boschee shares some encouragement and direction with the Lions during a timeout. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

On the right track to success

Tom Rutledge retires in June and leaves a Lion legacy.

Sophomore distance runner Adrian Todd sat on the couch in his coach's office, explaining the extent of his recent foot injury. Coach Tom Rutledge gave Todd a speech he may remember for the rest of his life: "Life's going to crap on you every three minutes, but it's how you get off the floor. It's going to knock you down, but you got to get back up. You'll be fine."

This wasn't Rutledge's first motivational speech. And this wasn't the first athlete whose life he impacted. Since his coaching career began at Southern in 1989 with the development of the first men's and women's cross-country and track and field teams, Rutledge has led his athletes to eight MIAA cross-country championships, two MIAA Indoor Track and Field championships, and his teams have made 11 appearances at the NCAA Division II championships in the last 13 years.

After 24 years, 63 All-Americans, four National Champions, and numerous accolades, Rutledge said it's time to retire.

"A lot of coaches stay too long, but with my Parkinson's, it's very, very difficult for me to give what I feel I need to give to the program," said Rutledge, who will retire in June. "I feel like I can't do that, and they deserve more. These kids deserve more."

After developing the cross-country course, Rutledge recruited distance runners and created the race known as the Southern Stampede. The first race had 39 runners in 1991. The Stampede now attracts more than 2,000 runners, boosting funds for the program and bringing tourism to the city of Joplin.

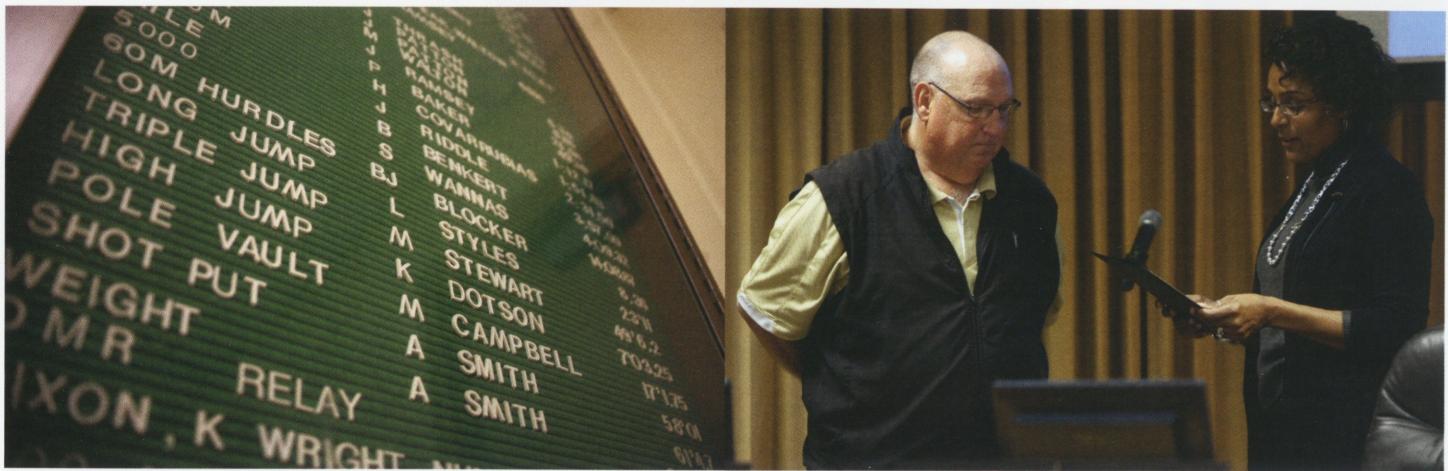
His achievements are unprecedented in Missouri Southern athletics, especially starting out with no equipment or cross-country course, a track, and little funding.

Tongula Givens Stednum, '95, 14-time All-American and two-time individual National Champion, remembered when her team didn't have facilities to practice in but still managed to reach its goals.

"It had been a dream of ours for years, Leggett & Platt," Stednum said. "We used to have to shovel in front of Young Gym if there was snow on the ground so



Cross-country and track and field coach Tom Rutledge leaves behind 24 years of success —
Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



Above left, a display on the wall outside of Young Gymnasium showcases the many athletes Tom Rutledge has coached to records and All-American status. Above right, the city of Joplin proclaimed November 19, 2012, as "Tom C. Rutledge Day" in honor of the coach's efforts on and off the track. The presentation was made at a city council meeting, with Southern alum and Joplin mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean, '98, recognizing Rutledge. The Lions coach leaves behind a successful program when he retires in June 2013. — Photos by Elizabeth Spencer, '14, and Curtis Almeter, '13

we could work out. It was harsh times, but it was the best of times. He put our team on the map, though. He made our team a top contender. He knew things had to be done, and he put all his efforts into the dream."

Stednum transferred to Southern in 1994, hoping to win a national title.

"We had a lot of obstacles, but coach Rutledge is good about getting people to see past those obstacles," she said. "He promotes his cause; he introduces athletes to a new level. He makes them mentally tough. He believed in creating a championship environment, and he sold his athletes on that."

Recruiting became Rutledge's greatest resource, and one of his greatest strengths.

"I don't know of anyone else that could have convinced people to come here when the program was where it was at compared to other schools," said Stednum. "If he couldn't offer them a scholarship, he'd find a way to get them here and get them taken care of. He was on the phone every night winning them over. He knew how to build a player up. I never doubted that he could build what he did because he dreams so big."

Among Stednum's favorite memories was when Rutledge presented her with her award at the National Championship, a day both of their dreams came true.

"He was just as happy as I was," she said. "To share that with someone, that's the greatest feeling."

Rutledge's many accomplishments did not occur without sacrifice.

"There's not a single person in the world

that would put that much blood, sweat, tears and finances into a program as he did," said Stednum. "Some people work because they have to; he worked because he loved it."

Former distance runner Ryan Arthur, '08, said Rutledge set an attitude for the team that allowed them to achieve great things. Serving as a graduate assistant after graduation until becoming a part-time assistant, Arthur witnessed Rutledge's impact on the athletes.

"He's a leader; he made us feed off each other and support each other," Arthur said. "He stresses the family thing."

He is certain Southern will miss this legendary coach.

"I know he's hoping people on the team take on leadership roles," Arthur said. "It's going to be different, but he has instilled a tradition of excellence and that's what is huge."

Rutledge is humble about his career.

"People say, 'Tom, you've been very successful,'" Rutledge said. "Success comes from experience; a lot of the experience comes from failure. And I've had a lot of failures. That's where you learn. That's part of it."

"There are some goals I didn't achieve. I don't take compliments very well. I feel embarrassed. I feel there are always people out there better than I am, but I know I'm pretty good. I have to believe that to be competitive. I've just been very fortunate to be at the right place at the right time."

One person he said carried him through

to success was his wife, Karen.

"My wife is my rock. Ever since I began coaching, I've worked seven days a week," Rutledge said. "Coaches are gone 30 to 35 weekends a year. You recruit 24-7. And since I've been coaching at the college level since 1979, my wife raised our kids. She would help me when I didn't have any assistant coach, she would do errands, take care of my athletes, be there for them when I couldn't, and she runs a successful business, so I would have to say marrying Karen is probably the smartest thing I've ever done in my life."

After retiring, Rutledge plans to relax, play golf and continue his charity work. He does admit he will miss the athletes.

"I love those guys," he said. "You grow an attachment; that's your family. That's what gets me up in the morning."

Rutledge made it his mission to also leave life lessons with his athletes.

"I try to teach my kids to give back — marry good people," he said. "I wanted a class program. I tell them to go to class because that's what they're here for. We volunteered a lot. I've experienced a lot of rewards."

Looking back, Rutledge regrets nothing.

"It was all very worth it," he said. "I've been very fortunate. Athletics is a roller coaster; it's not a merry-go-round with very high ups and very low lows. Some people are satisfied with merry-go-rounds. But I'd rather ride the roller coaster 24-7 and twice on Sundays." 

— Sydney Marsellis, '14



Left, senior Brandon Williams ended his Lion career with 27 sacks.

Center, senior Kellen Cox leads the Lions to a win against Northeastern State.

Right, senior Megan Stueve powers down the field and finishes the season with 27 goals.

— Photos by Mike Gullett

It's a wrap ...

Fall teams show Lion spirit with pride.

Football (6-5)

The team saw a winning season for the first time since 2007 under the direction of first-year head coach Daryl Daye. The Lions went 6-5 and finished 5-5 in MIAA play.

The triple option made its debut as the Lions went on the road and defeated Central Oklahoma to start the season. Southern then won its home opener against Northeastern State and won again at Lincoln, before dropping a pair of games to Southwest Baptist and Central Missouri. The Lions rebounded, however, and picked up a win over South Dakota Mines on homecoming and a huge upset of then fourth-ranked and eventual MIAA Champion Missouri Western in St. Joseph. Southern was the only team to defeat the Griffons until Western lost out in the regional final to Minnesota State.

Senior defensive end Brandon Williams finished as the all-time sack king at MSSU, with 27 sacks in his four-year career. He was named the MIAA Defensive Player of the Year, as well as the Regional and National Defensive Player of the Year by multiple organizations. He was named an All-America selection by six different groups and was invited to play in the Senior Bowl, one of just two Division II players. Williams competed at the NFL Combine on February 23-26 and was part of the NFL Draft in April.

Volleyball (0-30)

After a tough season, head coach Trish

Knight is ready to concentrate on next fall.

Southern went 0-30, but a group of young players showed promise of what could be in 2013. Junior outside hitter Katie Politte was named an honorable mention All-MIAA selection after she led the team in kills with 145 and a 2.70 per set average this season. She was also fourth on the team in blocks with a 0.44 per set average and ranked second on the team with 2.43 digs per game. She ranked 13th in the MIAA this season in kills per set.

A pair of freshmen emerged as a force on the court as Payton Graves and Callie Whetstone combined to give the Lions a solid presence in the middle. Graves finished

second on the team in blocks per set with 0.60, while Whetstone was third at 0.49.

Soccer (5-5-2)

With the emergence of senior forward Megan Stueve as a top offensive weapon, the team finished the fall with another successful campaign.

Coming into her senior season with 10 goals and 23 points in her first three seasons as a Lion, Stueve surpassed both of those totals last fall, finishing with a MIAA-leading 13 goals and 27 points. Stueve's breakout season helped propel the Lions to seventh place in the 13-team MIAA Conference.

After their first win over eventual MIAA tournament champion Fort Hays State at home on September 21, the Lions went on to defeat Nebraska-Kearney, Lindenwood, Washburn and Northwest Missouri State in conference play.

In addition to Stueve's standout season, other Lions finished strong. Seniors Candis Clark and Courtney Sanders and junior Tiffany Laughlin all finished the year as honorable mention All-MIAA selections. The trio combined to finish the year with four goals and 10 assists, including seven assists from Laughlin. Junior midfielder Dana Wilhelm also had a nice season as she finished with two goals and two assists, good for six points, which was third on the team behind Stueve and Laughlin.

Qualifying for the MIAA tournament, the Lions season ended with a 4-0 loss to eventual NCAA tournament qualifier and new MIAA conference member Central Oklahoma in the first round on October 30 in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Left, senior Shakila Balkhi prepares to set the ball in a match last fall.

Center, senior Nick Niggemann competes in a cross-country race.

Right, senior Marlee Tegenkamp carries a strong pace on the cross-country course.

— Photos by Mike Gullett



Men's Cross-country

The team wrapped up another successful fall campaign, taking eighth in the NCAA Championships, while taking third at the MIAA Championships.

In Tom Rutledge's final season as head coach, the Lions had their highest finish at the NCAA's since 2002. Sophomores Eric Schott, Andrew Webster and Adrian Todd paced the Lions at Nationals, finishing 44th, 47th and 49th respectively. Junior Jake Benton took 105th; freshman Ryan Jackson took 121st. In addition to a successful run at the NCAA's, the Lions also had a nice showing at the MIAA Championships, at Northwest Missouri on October 20. The Lions had three runners in the top 10 with Schott, third; Todd, seventh; and Benton, ninth.

Qualifying for the NCAA's by taking second at the NCAA Central Regional Champi-

onships, hosted by Southern on November 3, the Lions had three runners in the top 20: Schott, fifth; Benton, 13th; and Todd, 19th.

The Lions captured the Jackling Jocks Invite, hosted by Missouri S&T, on October 6, as the Lions finished with five runners in the top 10 led by Todd, second; Schott, third; Webster, fourth; Benton, seventh; and freshman Colton Wooldridge, 10th.

Women's Cross-country

The women wrapped up another successful fall campaign this season, winning the MIAA Championship and taking 20th at the NCAA Division II Championships.

Now in her 20th season as head coach Patty Vavra and the Lions captured their fifth MIAA title in the past seven years. Vavra was named the MIAA Coach of the Year last fall. Their sixth conference title

overall, juniors Kaitlyn Belisle and Rachel Schrader finished fifth and sixth respectively, earning All-MIAA status, while senior Marlee Tegenkamp placed 15th and Lauren Baehr placed 17th.

The Lions also had a nice showing at the NCAA Championships, hosted by Missouri Southern on November 17, as they took 20th overall. Schrader took 66th overall, Tegenkamp took 91st, while Belisle took 126th.

Qualifying for the NCAA's by taking fourth at the NCAA Central Regional Championships, hosted by Southern on November 3, the Lions had three runners take home All-Region honors: Schrader, 11th; Tegenkamp, 18th; and Belisle, 21st.

— Justin Maskus,

Athletic Media Relations Director, and Travis Blanshan, Athletic Media Relations Assistant

Young teams use season to gain valuable experience

Men (13-15)

Losing four seniors off an NCAA Tournament qualifying team in 2012, including MIAA Player of the Year Keane Thomann, the team welcomed seven new players. With no seniors on the roster, juniors Marquis Addison and Jordan Talbert led the Lions in the tough MIAA conference. Opening the year with exhibition games at Division I Oral Roberts and new SEC conference member Missouri, the Lions hung with both for a half, and used those experiences to help them as the season went on.

Going 5-3 in nonconference

action, including a 58-50 win at 2013 NCAA Tournament qualifier Arkansas Tech, the Lions had a great start to conference play, starting 4-2 with wins over Truman, Missouri Western, Lincoln and Pittsburg State. Addison scored a career-high 34 points on 10-of-14 shooting from the field in the Lions' 7-point win over the Gorillas. The young lineup saw a lot of on-the-job training, as they would go 3-9 in their final 12 games. The Lions qualified for the MIAA Tournament, where they earned the ninth-seed and traveled to eighth-seeded Emporia State in the first round.

The Lions overcame a 10-point halftime deficit to escape Emporia with a 2-point win behind two clutch free throws from Addison. In the MIAA quarterfinals, the Lions faced top-seeded Fort Hays State. Hot shooting from behind the 3-point line would seal the win for the Tigers and end the Lions season.



Left, junior Marquis Addison works the ball down the court. Right, Erin Rice powers past an opponent. — Photos by Mike Gullett



Women (14-13)

With only two returning players, the team welcomed 11 new players. Meshing new faces from different playing styles took time, as the Lions fell in two exhibition games to Livin' The Dream and Division I University of San Francisco. The Lions started the season, winning six of their first seven games, including home nonconference wins over 2012 NCAA Tournament qualifier Newman and nearby Drury.

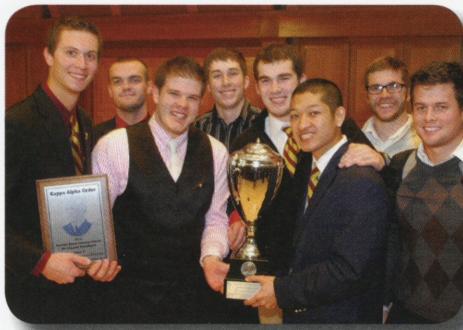
The Lions won their first four MIAA conference games after the winter break, including a 78-76 win at home over Missouri West-

ern, when freshman guard Shareese Jones had a career-high 17 points. The Lions had a 10-3 record going into the Sonic Trophy Series with rival Pittsburg State at Leggett & Platt, but fell to the Gorillas, 66-63. The Lions then went 1-9 in their next 10 games, playing eight games against either nationally ranked teams or teams that received votes in the national poll.

Forward Erin Rice, the lone senior, averaged 19.0 ppg in her final five games, becoming the ninth all-time leading scorer in Southern women's basketball history, finishing with 1,220 points.

The eighth-seeded Lions would host ninth-seeded Northwest Missouri at home for the MIAA Tournament. The Lions would use a 26-6 run in a nine-minute stretch to take a 59-57 lead, but couldn't hang on, as Bearcat free throws ended their season.

— Justin Maskus, Athletic Media Relations Director



Members of the Kappa Alpha Order Delta Pi Chapter at Missouri Southern display the George C. Marshall Award for Chapter Excellence the group recently received. The award was one of only two given this past year by the national order. — Submitted photo

Southern's Kappa Alpha chapter is one of top chapters in country

Kappa Alpha Order announced that the Delta Pi chapter, located at Missouri Southern, has been given the fraternity's top award for an active chapter, the George C. Marshall Award for Chapter Excellence.

The award was presented to the membership at a regional leadership conference for the fraternity, held at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, by the national president of Kappa Alpha Order.

In fall 2011 and spring 2012, the students in this chapter achieved a 2.8 average GPA, which was higher than both the MSSU all-male and all-fraternity GPAs, and ranked first on campus among fraternities. The chapter joined the national fraternity's total membership development program, The Crusade, which focuses on positive new member education, the ritual and laws of the fraternity, and leadership development. Through support from their alumni, 11 members attend the Emerging Leaders Academy, a national KA educational program held in Lexington, Virginia. Armed with new knowledge, the chapter grew by 30 percent in membership. Delta Pi achieved the most service hours per man in the entire fraternity for the second year in a row and was recognized for outstanding dollars raised per man for philanthropy.

Every year, all 124 chapters of Kappa Alpha Order are encouraged to submit award applications to the national administrative office of the fraternity. The fraternity awards the George C. Marshall Award for Chapter Excellence to the top one-

to-three chapters based on applications received. Only two Marshall Awards were given this year. The Missouri University of Science and Technology chapter received the other.

The award is named for the Kappa member George C. Marshall who served with the U.S. Army, as president of the Red Cross, and later as secretary of state and secretary of defense for President Harry S. Truman. He also received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for the European Recovery Act. Marshall set the standard for Kappa Alpha's highest individual honor, Distinguished Achievement Award, being the first recipient in 1948.

Missouri Sports Hall of Fame inducts Lions coach Rutledge

Missouri Southern men's track and field and cross-country coach Tom Rutledge was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame January 27 in Springfield.

Rutledge was part of an enshrinement class that included former Major League Baseball players David Eckstein, Scott Bailes and Mike Sweeney; Kansas City Chiefs full-back Tony Richardson; and Central Missouri basketball coach Kim Anderson, among others.

Rutledge came to Missouri Southern in 1988 as an assistant football coach, and in 1989 became the first head cross-country and track and field coach for both men's and women's programs.

Since that time Rutledge has been named MIAA Men's Cross-Country Coach of the Year five times and Indoor Coach of the Year twice. He has mentored eight cross-country All-Americans and 55 track and field All-Americans, including many achieving multiple All-American honors.

Rutledge announced his retirement in November 2012 which will be effective at the end of this school year.

Department reassessments occur with School of Health Sciences

Missouri Southern will implement several departmental reassessments this fall.

The School of Health Sciences, Public Safety and Technology will soon experience a name change to the School of Health Sci-

ences. The renaming reflects recent changes that will be implemented for the 2013 fall semester.

The Computer Information Science and Engineering Technology departments will move to the Robert W. Plaster School of Business, while the Criminal Justice Administration Department will move to the School of Arts and Sciences. The School of Health Sciences will be led by Dr. Tia Strait, '85. The change will allow Strait to build and expand programs in health sciences, which are of importance to the state and the nation.

"The decision to create a standalone School of Health Sciences is our way of investing in health care programs and professionals to serve our region and the State of Missouri," said Strait.

To meet industry needs, Dr. John Groesbeck, dean of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business, said universities must occasionally restructure their offerings.

"My school now has two additional departments, both of which provide classes that lead to degrees in areas that are part of the world of business as it exists today," Groesbeck said.

Dr. Richard Miller, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, said he is delighted about the addition to his school.

"Not only is this a logical alignment, but the expertise of the faculty in Criminal Justice will enhance the offerings of the School of Arts and Sciences," Miller said.

No changes in academic programs or class offerings are anticipated as part of the move. Dr. Pat Lipira, vice president for academic affairs, said the spring semester will allow time to transition into this new departmental structure.

Southern signs memorandum with university in Odessa, Ukraine

Memorandum of Understanding between Missouri Southern and the Odessa National Maritime University (Odessa, Ukraine) was signed on January 16.

The MOU results from Southern's participation in an International Business competition (Ukraine National 'International Logistics' competition) in April 2012 in Odessa. The MSSU team took first in the Case Analysis section of the competition.



Dr. Tia Strait, '85

Crossroads wins writing, design awards for 2011, 2012 issues

Crossroads is once again an award recipient in the MarCom Awards competition. The Missouri Southern Alumni Association magazine's entry of the fall 2011 issue was a Platinum Winner for Writing in the 2012 competition. The magazine also was a Gold Winner for the fall 2011 issue in the Magazine/Association category, as was the entry for the winter and spring 2012 issues. The fall 2011 issue and the spring 2012 issue each were Gold Winners in the Design Category.

Crossroads is written, photographed, designed and edited by students in the Missouri Southern Communication Department.

The competition recognizes outstanding creative achievement by marketing and communication professionals. More than 6,000 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and several other countries were entered in the 2012 competition.

MSSU, city of Joplin partner to create trail from campus to mall

Missouri Southern and the city of Joplin announced their intent to work together to create the city's newest walking trail.



Darren Fullerton, '88, dean of students at Missouri Southern, speaks at a press conference announcing the partnership with the city of Joplin to construct a walking and biking trail to connect the campus with the Northpark Mall complex. — Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13

The announcement was made at a joint news conference on February 4.

The proposed trail would connect the campus to a movie theater parking lot that is part of the Northpark Mall complex. The trail as envisioned would be an asphalt trail 10 feet wide and would accommodate both foot and bicycle traffic. A pedestrian bridge, estimated to be 200 feet long, would cross Turkey Creek. The city of Joplin will oversee the construction of the trail and pedestrian bridge. Southern will install lighting for

the 2,000-foot-long trail. The trail is being funded through the Federal Highway Administration Transportation Enhancement Grant Program provided to the city.

"We're very pleased that this trail is getting closer to becoming a reality," said Rob Yust, '80, Vice President for Business Affairs at Missouri Southern. "It would be not only part of our master plan but a major improvement for our students. This is especially true for many of our residence hall students who do not have automobiles."

The trail marks another effort by the city to connect Southern students to the community. Joplin's Sunshine Lamp Trolley makes regular stops on campus.

"Missouri Southern is a great asset in our community," said Sam Anselm, assistant city manager. "Not only are they the leaders in education, but they are a strong community partner."

Once complete, the route between Southern and Northpark Mall would be much shorter and more convenient for students going to this retail district.

Trail construction is estimated at approximately \$347,000, with the grant providing 80 percent of the funding. The city will pay the remaining 20 percent, or \$72,000.

— From Staff Reports

Stay fit and hang out with fellow alumni at the Beimdiek Recreation Center

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sunday: Noon-6 p.m.

**Fees for
Missouri Southern Alumni Association Members**

Fall or Spring, \$150

Summer, \$60

Full Year, \$360

Membership includes use of the Beimdiek Recreation Center and Young Gymnasium pool and racquetball facility. For more information, call Melanie Epperson at 417-625-9760 or email Epperson-Me@mssu.edu

Call of Duty

Like so many others, this alum put aside personal loss to assist a community.

Horrific news from home threatened to destroy the long awaited, three-week honeymoon for Aaron Garbet, '08, and his wife, Tabatha, '12. The couple was married on May 21, 2011, and boarded a plane bound for Europe that day.

They were on the ground in Scotland when reports reached them of the fate that had befallen their beloved hometown of Joplin, Missouri. The devastating May 22 tornado that struck the city leveled the Garbets' apartment complex and destroyed everything, including their unopened wedding gifts.

But Aaron Garbet was not one to waste time pondering the elusive mystery of fate; he was a person of action. A veteran of the war in Afghanistan, scenes of devastation were nothing new to him. But this was home, and that was different.

Much of his adult life was spent in military training, preparing to face the unknown challenges of conflict and combat. The couple cut their trip short by a week and returned to Joplin. Garbet knew his place was among the destruction to help the community recover.

"I went over to the Armory because I knew that the Guard was doing full time," said Garbet, a captain in the Missouri Army National Guard.

The Guard didn't have a position available and referred him to the Workforce Investment Board.

"I did an interview and got picked up in late June of 2011 as a work site coordinator," Garbet said.

As work site coordinator for the Disaster Recovery Jobs Project, he supervised 339 people and five cleanup crews at the peak of the Joplin recovery effort.

A National Emergency Grant releasing funds to Joplin, which had been declared a natural disaster area by the president of the United States, provided salaries to those employed by the Disaster Recovery Jobs Program for Jasper and Newton counties. The program, created by the Workforce Investment Board, provided temporary jobs to aid in the cleanup of public areas and any restoration needed. More than 1,500 civilians were temporarily employed through the program.

On January 2, 2012, Garbet accepted a permanent posi-



tion with Task Force Phoenix in the Missouri Army National Guard that would continue beyond the Joplin recovery efforts and his temporary position.

"About March time frame, as the city of Joplin was starting to wind down a little bit, I was actually put in charge of the task force, as some of the other officers were leaving," he said.

At that time, the task force was given the new designation of active Missouri Army National Guard duty.

Garbet had soldiers in Duquesne, Missouri, to provide safety instructions and skills training, and they worked alongside civilian workers of the Disaster Recovery Jobs Program.

His disaster recovery mission ended last October, and life has slowly returned to normal for the Garbets. The couple moved into a new home in Webb City, Missouri, a replacement for the apartment they lost in the tornado. His wife, Tabatha, completed her Bachelor's in English literature last May and works in Southern's Campus Card Service Center.

Garbet credits his education and training at Southern for the level of success he has attained in the Guard.

"Earning my degree in history at Southern taught me how to do research," Garbet said. "It taught me how to listen, how to look, what to look for, how to be particular about stuff. Dr. Steven Wagner in the history department right now, he was one of my favorite professors because he provided a great teaching source."

Garbet is continuing his military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and plans to pursue a Master's in the future.

"We have so much to learn, and it's just a continuous process," he said. "I'm very excited." 

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Left, Aaron Garbet, '08. (Photo by Debrah Trout, '13) Right, the Missouri Army National Guard assists in Joplin, Missouri, after a May 22, 2011, tornado levels one-third of the city. (Submitted photos)



Special recognition

September 8, 2012, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon presented the E3 award for Excellence in Education, Economic Development, and Employment, recognizing the local partnership of the southwest Missouri Workforce Investment Board, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, and Crowder College.

The award also recognized the effective expenditure of the National Emergency Grant funds that were in excess of \$15 million.

"This award is a fitting tribute to honor the achievements of all the organizations and individuals who put forth a monumental effort to restore the infrastructure and vitality of the Joplin community and especially the Missouri Army National Guardsmen who restored not only a community but a nation's faith in their mission," said Jasen Jones, executive director, Workforce Investment Board of southwest Missouri.

Con-way[®]

TRUCKLOAD



Alan Brady, '98, is manager of recruitment for Con-way Truckload in Joplin, Missouri. He finds his Southern connection helps him identify potential employees from his alma mater. — Photo by Debrah Trout, '13

Networking

Alumni can provide an invaluable link when it comes to finding employment in today's tight job market.

In today's job market, it's important to have good connections. Missouri Southern State University's Career Services department knows that to help students find jobs, knowing alumni in the community is an invaluable tool.

Alan Brady, '98, manager of recruitment at Con-Way Truckload in Joplin, Missouri, is one of those people it's good to know.

Brady graduated from Southern with a Bachelor's in political science. His responsibilities at Con-Way include posting positions for the company, doing preliminary interviewing, recruiting at job fairs, and helping managers with the hiring process. He is also bilingual — knowing Spanish is a plus in his position.

At career fairs like the one Southern holds every spring and fall, Brady said his Southern connection gives him a good perspective of what students are thinking when they are going booth to booth, because he was there himself 15 years ago.

"I start to think, OK, if I'm in this type of mindset, I would've really appreciated someone friendly, forthcoming and engaging, and not just have someone show me a piece of paper," Brady said.

"I try to empathize with your average candidates looking, and I understand that college is years of discovery for somebody to figure out what they want to do and look forward to do."

Nicole Brown, director of Southern's Career Services, said opportunities for students and alumni to network are invaluable.

"Alumni make the best company representatives; they are passionate about helping students and sharing informa-

tion," Brown said. "When students establish a personal contact with the company, it becomes much less scary for them, and they are more likely to seek opportunities within the organization."

Brady learned to be open minded and versatile in college.

"And really what I think I learned is that you have to remain flexible for anything that might come your way," he said.

"So, in a sense, you know, I was learning how to be dependable in college and then also learning about making friends and networking, figuring out leadership roles."

Brady said this helped him when some of the people he went to college with had things figured out and he didn't, until he got his diploma and a job at Con-Way — all because someone at an MSSU career fair took the time to talk to him.

Brady is familiar with the professors and degree programs at Southern, which helps in the recruitment process. This makes it easy to start talking to students so they can find common points of interest.

Now that he's on the recruitment end, Brady is proud to promote Con-Way and excite students about the opportunities available in his company. He said when people think about Con-Way Truckload, they think: trucks. Yes, trucking is a big

part of the company, but he said there is more.

"I let (students) know we have an IT department, a finance department, an operations department and not go with the stereotype that you're a transportation company — all you hire for are for driving positions," he said.

"I try to give a lot of information and try to be approachable. I try to portray our culture, and you might have seen it around the building: safety, integrity, commitment and excellence. I think we're a company that likes to be engaging with their employees, and I want to show people who might be interested in such a company, that we are that way."

When looking for candidates, Brady is always observing behaviors.

"I pay attention to anything I can ... I have a table full of items, so do they go for the brochure? Do they go for the candy? Do they come talk to me? How interested do I feel this person is in my company?"

Then he asks if a potential employee wants to stay in the area or move away. He likes to find this out from candidates because Con-Way is such a large company, he may

be able to offer positions in Joplin or elsewhere.

Con-Way Truckload purchased CFI

five years ago. The company includes three divisions: Con-Way Truckload in Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, West Memphis and Taylor, Michigan, as well as, offices in Mexico; Con-Way Freight in the 48 continuous states and Canada; and the logistics division in the United States, Europe and Asia.

"We have several offices in Mexico, and we do a lot of business and trade with Mexico," Brady said.

"So, it was just my luck when I came to this company 15 years ago that I'm bilingual in Spanish, and this company is always looking for bilingual Spanish candidates."

A recently hired recruit in revenue management is bilingual.

"We had already been talking to her, but she swung by the job fair to say hello, and it wasn't a day or two later that we extended an offer to her," Brady said.

Other Con-Way managers are Southern grads, as is the vice president of IT. Brady said the company has hosted IT students to come and look at its mainframe, and the department employs about 50 programmers.

"So for us, it pays off to maintain this relationship as far as bringing in new talent," Brady said of his Southern connection.

— Amanda Pachlhofer, '13

MSSU Career Services Department offers helpful interviewing tips

Interviewing begins and ends with your resume and thank you letter. These hints are what you need to keep in mind.

1. Tell me a little about yourself.

Every interview starts with this question and you should know the answer. It should be professional and brief.

2. Research the company. In addition to the company's website look for news stories.

3. Dress for success. The details matter: dress professionally and conservatively, polish your shoes, clean your fingernails, and avoid perfume or cologne.

4. Watch your body language. Handshake, eye contact and attitude are important.

5. Prepare with mock interviews. At mssu.edu/career the Optimal Resume offers mock interviews via



webcam, complete with a virtual coach to explain the questions and offer sample answers. Be sure to record your answers and replay them for self-critique.

6. Prepare questions for the interviewer. This is a great way to show your genuine interest in the company and position.

7. Send a thank you note after interviews. Email is great;

handwritten is even better. I recommend both.

8. If you do not receive the job, ask for feedback. Keep it professional and specific; this not only helps you improve, but it shows the employer you are interested in self-improvement.

Source: Nicole Brown, director, Missouri Southern Career Services

Lion Tales

By Robin Fjelstad, '15



Above, Owner of Ozark Technical Ceramics, Kelly Meares '74, presents maps that show the locations where the ceramic products are exported and the organized bins where some products are kept. Right, many tools and small pieces are used at the Ozark Technical Ceramics. — Photos by Samantha Zoltanski



KELLY MEARES

Who: Missouri Southern alumnus, 1974; owner of Ozark Technical Ceramics in Webb City, Missouri.

What: We manufacture advanced ceramics for use in high-temperature environments for the heating, temperature measurement, and high-tech metallurgy industries. These include aerospace, nuclear, industrial, military, academic and automotive applications. Almost half of Ozark's product is exported to 20 countries on five continents. The business was founded in 1986 by myself and Greg Lawrence. It arose from an opportunity to fill a scientific and commercial market that was abandoned by our former employer. It was based on a scientific and technical foundation with a business built on top, instead of the other way around.

Keys to Success: It is not hard work; it is smart work and clinging to opportunities like stink on a skunk. The notion that you can't have your cake and eat it too is an opportunity killer. Now we call it multitasking, and it is a vital survival skill.

Greatest Challenge: To date is answering this question about what is the greatest challenge. Almost everything else can be addressed with the engineer's observation: The glass is neither half-empty or half-full but is just the wrong size for the job.

Southern Memories: The best Southern memory is from the visit yesterday to work out at Beimiek. The next best memory is the one before when I was hanging out at the indoor track meet. The next best one will be the next time I visit the campus.

Southern connection: Ozark Technical Ceramics supports MSSU students by hiring many of them and adjusts their shift hours to accommodate their class schedules.

Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales info to Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

"Be a lifelong learner. If you get dragged to a cat show, learn everything you can about cats while you are there. Rinse and repeat this advice at every opportunity."

Kelly Meares, '74

Missouri Southern alumnus and owner of Ozark Technical Ceramics

CLASSNOTES

19 **76** **Marguerite (McGahan) Smotherman**, '76, '78, is a Senior Project Manager for McKesson.

19 **77** **John Jeffries**, '77, Author of *The Disappearance: A Journalist Searches for Answers After Millions Vanish*.

19 **89** **Michael LaFerla**, '89, is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.

Achieving Life-Time Diplomate is the highest level of achievement in the field of orthodontics. He is the only Board Certified orthodontist in the Joplin area.

19 **92** **Jane (Johnston) Anderson**, '92, retired November 2012 from the Oklahoma United

Methodist Conference as the Director of Church and Community Relations.

19 **94** **Andrew Patterson**, '94, is the Executive Director of Planning and Business Development at the University of Kansas Hospital.

19 **96** **Lyndall Keith Adams**, '96, is the High School Principal for USD 480.

19 **98** **Dana Williams**, '98, is the Marketing Manager for Bergan, LLC.

20 **02** **Jeff Meredith**, '02, is the Executive Director of the Monett Chamber of Commerce.

20 **04** **Elisa Bryant**, '04, is the Major Gifts Officer for the Missouri Southern Foundation.

20 **10** **Alicia (Martin) Buffer**, '10, is the Corporate Community Relations Specialist for the Cherokee Nation Businesses.

20 **11** **Patrick Tuttle**, '11, is the Director of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for the city of Joplin, Missouri.

20 **12** **Lacey McDannald**, '12, is the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Business Recovery Assistant.

— ClassNotes current as of March 1, 2013, from MSSU Alumni Association office



FUTURELIONS

Dale Benfield, '08, and Meredith McClary Benfield welcomed Cecilia Ruth Benfield, January 6, 2013.

Dr. Ron Mitchell, '93, dean of students, and Holly (Lehar) Mitchell, '92, are proud parents of Jackson Emmett Mitchell, who was born July 28, 2012. He joins big brothers Max and Sam.

Krista Stark, '07, and Jamie Stark welcomed Jadeyn Lorrie Stark on January 28, 2013. She joins siblings Reannon and James.

IN MEMORIAM

JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Harry Jones

November 13, 2012

Dorothy Harner Spracklen Donaldson

November 15, 2012

Charles A Thornberry

December 14, 2012

Robert Barnes

January 3, 2013

Philip Rogers

January 4, 2013

1940s

Jack Holden, '41

October 24, 2012

Harold Thompson, '48

October 8, 2012

1950s

Sally Dameron, '52

November 27, 2012

1960s

Rockford Smith, '69

December 3, 2012

1970s

Gerala Louise Harbaugh, '72

November 6, 2012

Kay Lynne Puffinbarger, '72

December 15, 2012

Randall Dean Campbell, '76

October 24, 2012

Richard Metsker II, '77

October 20, 2012

1980s

Sandra Spencer, '80

November 10, 2012

Janet (Grafmiller) Topham, '81

October 7, 2012

1990s

Linda Edwards, '99

May 9, 2012

Zachary Buttel, '94

January 26, 2013

2000s

Michael Mallory, '04

January 19, 2013

FRiENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Charon Ferneau

October 5, 2012

Barbara Fix

November 30, 2012

Cherri Lynn Isbell

December 3, 2012

Gary Morris McAferty

January 9, 2013

Betty Jo Pruitt

December 3, 2011

Ray Shull

November 22, 2012

Debra Sue Cookerly Sparks

December 7, 2012

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Missouri Southern remembers faculty and staff

Elizabeth Jane (Bettie) Evans Mueller
died October 25, 2012.

Born May 11, 1919, in Tonganoxie, Kansas, Bettie was the youngest of four girls.

Bettie graduated from Carthage High School in 1936 and followed her sisters to Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri, where she met her future husband, Byron Mueller. He graduated in 1939, and Bettie in 1940.

The couple was married at Portland, Maine, in 1943. He was a Navy lieutenant during World War II, stationed in the Pacific.

Bettie and Jim lived in Carthage until 1946, when Byron returned from the war. That year the family moved to Joplin, where Byron worked for the Empire District Electric Company until his retirement in 1984.

In 1966, Bettie was hired as a library assistant at Joplin Junior College. Her first challenge was to help move thousands of volumes into the mansion on the campus of the new Missouri Southern State College. As the college and its library grew, Bettie served the institution as technical services director, cataloging new materials and culling items from the collection. She retired from that position in 1983.

Bettie had a lifelong love of reading and her entire family — which includes three grandchildren, four step grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren — seemed to have inherited her abiding love of books.

Bettie was preceded in death by her parents, Walter M. and Genevieve Clark Evans; sisters, Dorothy Evans, Josephine Seymour and Genevieve Keith; husband, Byron; and son Jim.

She is survived by her son, Tom and wife, Jill; daughter Jo Mueller and

husband Don Ayers; daughter-in-law Suzanne Wilson; special AFS daughter Sirpa Lawson; and her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Arch Harris, 84, of Carthage, Missouri, died January 6, 2013, in Miami, Oklahoma.

Bob was born May 8, 1928, in Rich Hill, Missouri, the son of Arch Harris and Edith (Bailey) Harris. He had lived in Carthage since 1931.

Bob served in the United States Army during the Korea War from 1952-55, where he was a chaplain's assistant. He graduated from Carthage High School and Joplin Junior College. He received his Bachelor's and Master's from the Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, Kansas, and was awarded a piano teaching certificate before graduating from college.

Bob spent seven summers studying in Juilliard Campus in Aspen; he studied piano with the famed Juilliard professor Rosina Lhevinne, who taught other famed pianists such as Van Cliburn. He taught thousands of students. Bob loved helping children. He had been accredited by numerous state and national organizations. Bob was a college professor at Our Lady of the Ozarks and MSSU.

He played a big role in the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition during its 20-year run. Bob was a judge, listened to tapes for weeks on end from all over the world and did all the research.

He retired in 1992 and traveled extensively. He was a member of Kiwanis in Carthage, and other professional organizations. Bob was an organist and pianist for more than 70 years.

SuAn Richardson died February 9, 2013, at the age of 76.

SuAn worked full-time as the Missouri Southern switchboard operator from 1972-99 and on a part-time basis from 1999 to the time of her death. Hers was one of the friendly voices answering the telephone with "Thank you for calling Missouri Southern."

In December 2012, she was recognized at MSSU's Employee Appreciation Brunch for her 40 years of service.

Barbara Spencer, who has worked at the university for about the same amount of time and knew Richardson for more than 60 years, said it is a personal loss for her.

"She was kind, giving, loving," Spencer said.

"Everyone loved her because she was so easy to talk to. Everybody who knew her was crazy about her. I am privileged I had her for a friend."

Spencer taught Richardson to run the switchboard at Joplin Printing Company where they worked before coming to MSSU.

"SuAn had a heart for people," said Rae Surber, who works in the switchboard at MSSU.

"She always had a positive attitude and a smile on her face."

One of Richardson's interests was knitting. She made many afghans for employees at the university, including President Bruce W. Speck.

"Every once in a while someone comes along who touches everyone," Dr. Speck said.

"SuAn was one of those people. She exemplified the attributes of positivity, hard work and loyalty. In many cases, she was the first contact people encountered when they were calling for information."

Memoriam is current as of March 1, 2013. For additions in the next issue, send an email to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or give us a call at 417-659-LION.

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